

Top 10 Questions About Border Smog Check Requirements

1. *What is the reason for smog inspections?*

Smog is a serious health problem, and vehicles cause about half of California's air pollution. By making sure vehicles run as cleanly as possible, more than 100 additional tons a day of smog-producing vehicle emissions will be removed from the air.

Vehicle owners in California have been required to have their vehicles inspected and tested for many years. This test is called a *Smog Check*.

2. *Why do vehicles driven into California from Mexico need to have a Smog Check?*

Vehicles that are regularly driven across the border for work or study must comply with a new federal law called the Border Smog Reduction Act (H.R. 8).

3. *Does my vehicle need to pass a Smog Check?*

Yes, if you are employed or a student in California. A passing Smog Check also allows a vehicle to be registered in California, if registration is required.

4. *How can I find a Smog Check station?*

A Smog Check must be done at a licensed Smog Check station. To locate a Smog Check station near you, you may call our Consumer Hotline specialists. They can help you in English or Spanish.

- **Call toll-free from California: 1-800-952-5210**
- **From all other locations call: 916-445-1254**

5. *Which vehicles must go through the Smog Check Program?*

All 1974 or newer vehicles are subject to the Smog Check Program, with some exceptions, including diesels and motorcycles.

6. *What exactly is a Smog Check?*

Smog Checks are conducted by licensed Smog Check technicians, who measure the pollution coming from vehicles. To do this, they make sure the vehicle has all of the anti-smog parts it is supposed to have, see if those parts are working correctly, and then test the exhaust. The average cost of a Smog Check is \$50 plus an \$8.25 certificate fee.

7. *Where do I get a Smog Check?*

A Smog Check is done at a station licensed by the California Department of Consumer Affairs to perform smog inspection (and repair) services.

California requires a new vehicle first sold in the state to meet certain air pollution control requirements depending on where it was originally manufactured for sale.

A Smog Check technician can tell you whether your vehicle is:

- A vehicle manufactured for sale *in California*,
- A vehicle manufactured for sale *in the other 49 states*, or
- A vehicle manufactured for sale *outside the United States*.

Vehicles manufactured for sale in California or the other 49 states may be inspected at any licensed Smog Check station.

Vehicles manufactured for sale outside the United States require a special test and modifications. Ask your Smog Check technician, or call the Consumer Hotline (see Question number 9), for more information.

TOP 10 QUESTIONS (cont.)

8. *What if my vehicle fails the Smog Check?*

If your vehicle fails its Smog Check, you must have your car repaired, at your own expense, until it passes.

9. *Where can I call for more information on Smog Check requirements?*

Our Consumer Hotline specialists can help you in English or Spanish.

- Call toll-free from California:
1-800-952-5210
- From all other locations call:
916-445-1254

10. *Where can I call for information on interstate registration of my vehicle?*

For more information about completing interstate vehicle registration, call the Department of Motor Vehicles Telephone Service Center at **619-688-0227**, or one of the DMV field offices listed below:

- Chula Vista: **619-427-5550**
- El Centro: **760-352-1684**
- San Diego: **619-688-0227**
- San Ysidro: **619-428-4433**

The California Department of Consumer Affairs

Our Consumer Hotline specialists can help you in English or Spanish with your questions about Smog Check inspections.

- Call toll-free from California:
1-800-952-5210
- From all other locations call:
916-445-1254

The California Department of Motor Vehicles

For more information about completing the vehicle registration process, call the Department of Motor Vehicles Telephone Service Center at **619-688-0227**, or one of the DMV field offices listed below:

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What You Need To Know To Meet California's Clean Air Requirements

